

CHESAPEAKE SHORTHAND SAILING SOCIETY (CHESSS) MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: December 2, 2017
Minutes prepared by: Jeff Halpern, CHESSS Secretary
Board of Directors:

Commodore:	Rich Acuti	Present
Vice Commodore	Garner Bennett	Present
Secretary	Jeffrey Halpern	Present
Treasurer	Joe Gillis	Present
Member at Large	Chuck Scheaffer	Late

The meeting was called into to order at 11:18 a.m. on December 2, 2017. 31 people were in attendance at the start of the meeting with a maximum 38 people present at one time during the meetings. These included some new and potential members.

(Please see Attachment 1 for the list of Attendees who signed in).

1) Opening Comments:

Commodore Rich Acuti made opening comments, and set an agenda for the meeting. The Agenda was set as follows:

- Opening Remarks
- Board Officer's Reports
- Race schedule for 2018
- Brief discussion on incorporation/insurance (vote in 2018)
- Board Officer Nominations and Vote
- Guest Speakers

In his opening remarks, Commodore Acuti reported that CHESSS currently has approximately 180 members and that approximately 70 of which participated in one or more CHESSS event during 2017. During the opening comments the racing and CHESSS Challenge participation was summarized for the year with mention of nearly achieving the 6 races with 6 boats goal and the fact that CHESSS was one of the largest fleets at some of the races. A brief summary of the survey results were given. The educational outreach and Solo+One programs were reported on. The goal of outreach to other short-handed sailing organizations were set as a goal.

2) Secretary report:

- The Minutes January 2017 meeting Minutes were summarized:
The goals for 2017 were summarized and described as largely achieved. These were:
 1. Ways to increase membership and participation in racing.
 2. Explore ways for CHESSS to get the word out, create a buzz, and 'feel' more cohesive.
 3. Submit articles in Spinsheet, the Capital and other local papers.
 4. Board will research and make recommendations on incorporation, dues, insurance, hosting races, and becoming a CBYRA sanctioned. over the next year.

Racing Schedule
CHESSS Challenges
-) The minutes were approved
-) Secretary Halpern reported on Goal 2: which was to energize the Board. He reported that:
 1. Board has held regular monthly this year with members either attending in person or by conference call.
 2. Delegated specific assignments to the individual board members
 3. Been able to accomplish the majority of the goals

2) Secretary report: (continued)

- J Secretary Halpern also discussed the need for Board Expansion and/or Replacement
 1. Explained that the board is currently two members short of the allowable number of members
 2. Will accept volunteers for and all Board positions
 3. Offered that the Secretary and Two General Board Positions Open

3) Vice Commodore's report:

- Vice Commodore Bennett described his role in the vice commodore position to the members.
- Vice Commodore Bennett also reported on the CHESSS Challenges. He started by explaining purpose and structure of the Challengers: Vice Commodore Bennett reported that there were five Challenges last year with as many as 9 boats at each.
- The Vice Commodore indicated that there a list of proposed challenges will be posted on the CHESSS Webpage (Please see Attachment 2 for the Proposed Chesss Challenges for the 2018 Season.)
- Budget report.
- Incorporation.
- Attaining tax exempt status.
- Insurance.

3) Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Joe Gillis presented a brief treasury report. He indicated that the cost of food at the meeting brought the treasury to zero except that Chuck Scheaffer had some funds left from the Burgee sales.
- The Treasurer then presented the issues surrounding incorporation, insurance and dues as follows:
 1. The presentation began with an explanation of why Incorporation made sense and why it made sense to begin the process now.
 2. Treasurer Gillis explained the process of becoming a 501.C.3 Non Profit Corporation and the steps which CHESSS had already performed. He reviewed the list of costs to incorporate (See Attachment 3) and the annual expenses to maintain a 501.C.3 incorporation.
 3. It was suggested that perhaps a member who is an attorney might assist the organization with the incorporation process.
- J Treasurer Gillis explained the findings on insurance. He explained that once CHESSS was incorporated, insurance would be needed to protect CHESSS and its board from liability associated with hosting events and general operations. Commodore Acuti mentioned that CHESSS should have insurance just to borrow facilities from other clubs. The price for insurance was estimated to be around \$600 to \$1,500 but an exact figure would be determined once the insurance was being applied for.
- J The treasurer then discussed the other anticipated operating costs of the organization, such as the webpage, food for meetings, etc.
- J The discussion shifted to the need to collect dues before incorporation so that the organization can have the one time funds available to begin the incorporation process. It was suggested that dues per member would initially need to be in the \$20 to 40 range.
- J A timeline was proposed in which the Members would vote to proceed with Dues and Incorporation at the CHESSS's Spring General Membership Meeting. If that was approved, it was estimated that incorporation could take as long as 2 years.
- J A straw poll was taken and the members unanimously approved the board proceeding with the process outlined above with the first step a membership vote on Dues and Incorporation at the Spring Meeting.

4) Racing Schedule:

-) Commodore Acuti presented the objectives of having six targeted races that would ideally have a minimum of six boats on the line. He explained why it was important to commit to races before the CBYRA Coordination meeting.
-) A list of races were read off and a straw poll taken of members likely to do each. (Please see Attachment 4- Race Participants)
-) There was a suggestion from the floor that individual members be assigned to 'advocate' for each of the races. It was also suggested that there be one North of the Bridge featured race and one South of the Bridge featured race that CHESSS try to have an especially large turnout for.
-) There was also a discussion of the issue of there being a conflict when CHESSS is having starts in races which are very popular with fully crewed boats. It forces a boat owner to make a very difficult decision.

5) Introduction of New Members

-) Commodore Acuti asked new members to stand up and introduce themselves.

6) Election of Board Members

-) Commodore Acuti called for nominations from the floor for members who would like to serve on the CHESSS Board of Directors.
-) The following slate was nominated and approved unanimously.

Commodore:	Rich Acuti
Vice Commodore	Garner Bennett
Secretary	Jeffrey Halpern
Treasurer	Joe Gillis
Member at Large	Chuck Scheaffer
	John Enderle
	Jack Bensen

7) Guest Speakers

-) Guest speakers Vernon Hultzer and Brian Gray presented their experiences preparing for and doing the Newport to Bermuda 1-2. David Tabor and Carol Vaughn also participated in that race also added details. The presentations focused on Energy Management, Preparation, Provisioning, and Sleep, but also included discussions on sailing Mini 6.50 class boats, and lively stories from the trip over and back.
-) The presentations were followed by a question and answer session.

8) Outreach Member-at-Large presentation

-) Member at Large, Chuck Scheaffer presented membership and participation statistics.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Attachment 1: MEMBERS WHO SIGNED IN AS PRESENT:

		Club
Rich Acuti	1	CHESSS
Jeffrey Halpern	2	Sealevel Sailing Squadron
Garner Bennett	3	CHESSS,
Joe Gillis	4	CHESSS, MSA
Chuck Scheaffer	5	CHESSS
David Tabor	6	RCRA
Carol Vaughn		RCRA
John Aellen	7	PSA
Vernon Hultzer	8	EYC
Brian Gray	9	EYC
Albert Bosser*	10	HHSA
Peter Klein	11	
Seth Winnick	12	
Tom McVey	13	
D.J. Parry	14	
Jack Clayton.	15	BBSA
Brian Lockett	16	Ocean Cruising Club
Tom Price	17	PSA
Brett Sorensen	18	GSA
Vicki Hurt	19	ASN
Ted Slotwinski	20	HHSA
John Bensen	21	
Dave Hammett	22	DISC
Rick Shea	23	
John Enderle	24	CMA
Robert Dunigan	25	GITS
Joe Molare	26	
Shane Ross	27	
	28	

Attachment 2: PROPOSED CHESSS CHALLENGES FOR THE 2018 SEASSON

Name	Description	Distance	Difficulty	Start	Finish	Target Date
Rhodes River	Short warmup sail & fun race with raft-up and social	10 NM	Easy	Severn River	Rhodes River	19-MAY-18
Solomons Island	Longer Sail & fun race w/ raft-up and overnight stay.	40 NM	Moderate	Thomas Point	Mill Creek Sololmons MD	23-June-18
Northern Bay	Short sail & fun race to raft-up Patapsco River to Swan Creek		Easy	Patapsco River	Swan Creek Rockhall	21-July-18
St Michaels	Short sail & fun race with raft-up and social	26 NM	Easy	Annapolis	St Michaels	mid-Aug target Watermans' Appreciation Day
Oxford	Longer sail with raft-up and social follo	40 NM	Moderate	Thomas Point	Oxford Tred Avon Yacht Club	August – target TAYC Log Canoe Races
Night Sail	Night Sail	30 NM	Difficult			
Fall Sail	Saint Mary's River	60 NM	Moderate	Herring Bay	St Mary's	late Sept

Attachment 3: TREASURER'S REPORT ON INCORPORATION

One time Costs to Incorporate as a 501.C.3):

- 1) Approximate Range of One Time Costs \$600-\$1000*
- 2) List of One Time costs:
 - IRS 1023 Application \$ 400
 - IRS Employer Id Number \$ 0
 - MD Nonprofit Articles of Incorporation \$ 195
 - MD State Tax ID Number \$ 0
 - Check Availability of Your Trade Name \$ 25
 - MD Tax Exemption Application (N/A)
 - MD Registration for Charitable Solicitation/Fundraising \$0-\$300

Annual Fees

0-\$100 based on Contributions

Attachment 4: RACE PARTICIPATION POLL

Race	No. of Boats
1. Annapolis Yacht Club- Spring Race to Oxford (Saturday, May 12th .)	2
2. Hampton Yacht Club- Down the Bay (late May)	9
3. SSC/GIYS Spring Regatta (late/middle May)	2
4. Miles River Yacht Club- Annapolis to Miles River Race (late May)	2
5. Potapskut Sailing Assoc.- Moonlight Race (middle June)	6
6. Corsica River Yacht Club- Race Over (late July) (Cancelled)	0
7. St. Mary's College of Md- Governor's Cup (early August)	6
8. Tred Avon Yacht Club- Annapolis to Oxford Race (middle August)	3
9. Naval Academy Sailing Sqdn.- Annapolis to Oxford Race (early September)	9
10. *Annapolis Yacht Club- Annapolis to Solomon's Race (Saturday, Sept. 22nd.)	2
11. Potapskut Sailing Assoc.- Race to Rock Hall (Late September)	6
12. Baltimore City Yacht Assoc.- Baltimore Harbor Cup (middle October)	3

Also mentioned was the Annapolis to Bermuda Race with at least 3 CHESSS members expressing interest.